

In re Patent Application of:

**THOMSON ET AL.**

Serial No. 09/658,509

Filed: SEPTEMBER 8, 2000

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A bicycle stem for connecting a bicycle handlebar to a bicycle steering tube, the bicycle stem comprising:

    a body portion having a tubular shape with a hollow interior and opposing first and second ends, the second end of said body portion being open and defining a generally circular opening;

    a handlebar clamping portion having a first arcuate extent and connected to the first end of said body portion;

    a handlebar clamping member having a second arcuate extent and cooperating with said handlebar clamping portion to clamp the bicycle handlebar therebetween;

    said handlebar clamping member and said handlebar clamping portion each having a recess for the handlebar and a cavity in a respective medial portion of the recess to accommodate an enlarged diameter portion of the handlebar, the cavity in said recess of said handlebar clamping portion extending fully over the first arcuate extent thereof, [and] the cavity in said recess of said handlebar clamping member extending fully over the second arcuate extent thereof, the cavity in said recess of said handlebar clamping member being spaced from opposing portions of the handlebar, the cavity in said recess of said handlebar clamping member having a lateral extent substantially the same as a diameter of the circular opening of the second open end of said body portion, [wherein] the cavity of said recess of said handlebar clamping portion [has] having an opening therein [in communication] aligned with

In re Patent Application of:

**THOMSON ET AL.**

Serial No. 09/658,509

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[the hollow interior] the circular opening of the second open end of said body portion;

at least one fastener for securing said handlebar clamping member to said handlebar clamping portion; and

a steering tube clamping portion connected to the second end of said body portion.

3. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 wherein said handlebar clamping member is removable from said handlebar clamping portion.

4. (previously presented) A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 and wherein said recess of said handlebar clamping portion defines with the cavity a pair of spaced apart contact areas for contacting the handlebar.

5. (canceled).

6. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 wherein said handlebar clamping member and said handlebar clamping portion both have generally rectangular shapes overlying one another.

7. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 6 wherein said at least one fastener comprises respective fasteners securing corners of said handlebar clamping member and said handlebar clamping portion together.

In re Patent Application of:

**THOMSON ET AL.**

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8. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 wherein said body portion, handlebar clamping portion and steering tube clamping portion are integrally formed as a monolithic unit.

9. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 wherein said steering tube clamping portion has a tubular shape defining a steering tube receiving passageway therethrough, and wherein said steering tube clamping portion also has a clamp receiving passageway therein transverse to the steering tube receiving passageway and in communication therewith.

10. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 9 further comprising a steering tube clamp in the clamp receiving passageway and comprising a pair of cooperating clamp members aligned in side-by-side relation and comprising respective portions defining a recess therein for the steering tube.

11. (currently amended) A bicycle stem for connecting a bicycle handlebar to a bicycle steering tube, the bicycle stem comprising:

a body portion having a tubular shape with a hollow interior and having an open end defining a generally circular opening;

a handlebar clamping portion having a first arcuate extent, said handlebar clamping portion being [and] connected to [an] the open end of said body portion and having a generally rectangular shape;

In re Patent Application of:

**THOMSON ET AL.**

Serial No. 09/658,509

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a handlebar clamping member having a second arcuate extent and having a generally rectangular shape aligned with said handlebar clamping portion and cooperating therewith to clamp the bicycle handlebar therebetween;

said handlebar clamping member and said handlebar clamping portion each having a recess for the handlebar and a cavity in a respective medial portion of the recess to accommodate an enlarged diameter portion of the handlebar, the cavity in said recess of said handlebar clamping portion extending fully over the first arcuate extent thereof, [and] the cavity in said recess of said handlebar clamping member extending fully over the second arcuate extent thereof, the cavity in said recess of said handlebar clamping member being spaced from opposing portions of the handlebar, the cavity in said recess of said handlebar clamping member having a lateral extent substantially the same as a diameter of the circular opening of the open end of said body portion, [and wherein] the cavity of said recess of said handlebar clamping portion [has] having an opening therein [in communication] aligned with [the hollow interior] the circular opening of the open end of said body portion;

12. (previously presented) A bicycle stem according to Claim 11 wherein said recess of said handlebar clamping member defines with the cavity a pair of spaced apart contact areas for contacting the handlebar.

In re Patent Application of:

**THOMSON ET AL.**

Serial No. 09/658,509

Filed: SEPTEMBER 8, 2000

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13. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 11 wherein said handlebar clamping member is removable from said handlebar clamping portion.

14. (previously presented) A bicycle stem according to Claim 11 and wherein said recess of said handlebar clamping portion defines with the cavity a pair of spaced apart contact areas for contacting the handlebar.

15. (canceled).

16. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 11 further comprising a steering tube clamping portion connected to an end of said body portion opposite said handlebar clamping portion.

17. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 16 wherein said body portion, handlebar clamping portion and steering tube clamping portion are integrally formed as a monolithic unit.

18. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 16 wherein said steering tube clamping portion has a tubular shape defining a steering tube receiving passageway therethrough, and wherein said steering tube clamping portion also has a clamp receiving passageway therein transverse to the steering tube receiving passageway and in communication therewith.

In re Patent Application of:

**THOMSON ET AL.**

Serial No. 09/658,509

Filed: SEPTEMBER 8, 2000

19. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 18 further comprising a steering tube clamp in the clamp receiving passageway and comprising a pair of cooperating clamp members aligned in side-by-side relation and comprising respective portions defining a recess therein for the steering tube.

20. (currently amended) A bicycle stem for connecting a bicycle handlebar to a bicycle steering tube, the bicycle stem comprising:

a body portion having a tubular shape defining a hollow interior and having an open end defining a generally circular opening;

a handlebar clamping portion having a first arcuate extent, the handlebar clamping portion being [and] connected to [an] the open end of said body portion and having a recess therein for the handlebar, said handlebar clamping portion further having an opening in a medial portion of the recess [in communication] aligned with the [hollow interior] the circular opening of the open end of said body portion;

a handlebar clamping member having a second arcuate extent and cooperating with said handlebar clamping portion to clamp the bicycle handlebar therebetween, said handlebar clamping member having a recess for the handlebar and a cavity in a medial portion of the recess, the cavity in said recess of said handlebar clamping member extending fully over the second arcuate extent thereof, the cavity in said recess of said handlebar clamping member being spaced from opposing portions of the handlebar, the cavity in said recess of said handlebar clamping member having a lateral extent substantially the same

In re Patent Application of:

**THOMSON ET AL.**

Serial No. 09/658,509

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as a diameter of the circular opening of the open end of said body portion; and

at least one fastener for securing said handlebar clamping member to said handlebar clamping portion.

21. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 20 wherein said handlebar clamping member is removable from said handlebar clamping portion.

22. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 20 wherein said handlebar clamping member and said handlebar clamping portion both have generally rectangular shapes overlying one another.

23. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 22 wherein said at least one fastener comprises respective fasteners securing corners of said handlebar clamping member and said handlebar clamping portion together.

24. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 20 further comprising a steering tube clamping portion connected to an end of said body portion opposite said handlebar clamping portion.

25. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 24 wherein said body portion, handlebar clamping portion and steering tube clamping portion are integrally formed as a monolithic unit.

In re Patent Application of:

**THOMSON ET AL.**

Serial No. 09/658,509

Filed: **SEPTEMBER 8, 2000**

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26. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 24 wherein said steering tube clamping portion has a tubular shape defining a steering tube receiving passageway therethrough, and wherein said steering tube clamping portion also has a clamp receiving passageway therein transverse to the steering tube receiving passageway and in communication therewith.

27. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 26 further comprising a steering tube clamp in the clamp receiving passageway and comprising a pair of cooperating clamp members aligned in side-by-side relation and comprising respective portions defining a recess therein for the steering tube.

Claims 28-37 canceled.